Luella turned her face towards Signor Vecchio, thinking as she did so that she was really wasting her time.

"What I have to tell you is a sad story," Signor Vecchio began. "Seven years ago I was friendly with a very beautiful girl called Tia Broletto, and when I say beautiful, she was strikingly so."

He paused for a moment, then went on: "She fell in love with a charming and delightful Englishman who was in the British Army. His name was Ivor Stone and they were married."

He paused again before continuing: "I thought they were extremely happy, but one can never judge love where it concerns other people, and unfortunately they quarrelled."

Luella was listening, but she could not see how this could possibly concern her.

"The Captain," Signor Vecchio said, "went back to